

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM EVERYONE AT BIRCHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

What's on in school after the holiday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Professional Development Day—no children in school	Children return to school Y3 Stone Age Visitor		Reception—Snowdome Trip	3.05 pm Musical Theatre Club Y3-6

If your child has not received their copy of these letters or the 'Bugle' please contact their class teacher or the office

Letters sent home this week— Y6—Booster Lessons, Y3—Stone Age Visitor, Y1—Tamworth Castle Trip

Merry Christmas

Christmas is a very busy time for all, not least for those who are involved in schools. This year we are breaking up late and I know that adds pressure, on all those connected, to make sure they are ready for their Christmas holiday. I do hope you are all far more prepared for the Christmas period than I am. I fear I still have a lot to do once we break up and look forward to finally relaxing on Christmas day.

In school our staff and children have been working really hard over the last couple of weeks. Our pupils continue to make us proud for not only their 'outstanding' behaviour, but also for their hard work and incredible enthusiasm, which was so evident in our recent Christmas performances. It was really nice to have some traditional Christmas songs in both the Lower and Upper school productions. This is something we will look to continue with in future years. The children's singing was delightful and it is great to see so many of our parents attending to support their children and our school.

Christmas time in school is very different to when I was teaching a class of my own. I remember doing Christmas activities as soon as December came around. Now with the pressures of the curriculum, apart from rehearsals, we stay on timetable until Thursday and it is only then when we put a day aside to create cards, calendars, decorations and if time, watch a Christmas movie. Craft Thursday and toy morning on Friday, are really important times for children in school. They get the chance to relax, enjoy each other's company and start to get even more excited about breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

Our Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Office Staff, Governors, PTA and Volunteers deserve our recognition and our gratitude this term. My incredibly dedicated and talented colleagues make me proud on a daily basis, and I remain eternally grateful for their amazing professionalism, hard work and their continued support for myself and the school.

In this our last newsletter of the calendar year, may I take this opportunity to wish you, on behalf of all the children, staff and Governors of Birchwood Primary School, a very Merry Christmas and relaxing and prosperous New Year.

N Coleman—Headteacher



While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

All photographs can be purchased for £3 per A4 colour copy.
Please see ParentPay for details.

Spotlight on Excellence Our focus this week is: Christmas Nativity



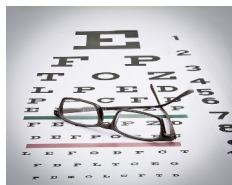
This week we have been treated to fantastic Nativity performances by our children in both Lower and Upper School. The school has been filled with the sound of Little Donkey, Hark the Herald and Away in a Manger as the children have sung these traditional festive songs so beautifully. I never cease to be amazed by how quickly the children learn their lines, and the words and indeed actions to the songs, it only seems like 5 minutes since they started rehearsing! This year Upper School have even been learning Makaton sign language for one of their Christmas songs.

We are as always really proud of all of the children, and very grateful for all the support of the people that enable the performances to happen, including parents and grandparents who we know have spent time helping to practise lines, and have no doubt heard the songs a million times at home already. We hope you enjoyed sharing the final performances as much as we did. Have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

M Day—Associate Headteacher

A message from Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service

Children may not always know that they have a vision problem. It is therefore recommended that children have regular eye tests. These should be carried out once every two years, even if there are no problems with their eyesight.



These tests can be done at a high street opticians and are free for all children under 16 years old (and those under 19 years old in full time education). You can speak to your child's Optician if you have any concerns about their vision.

The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and the School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

Myths and Legends ...

'The school won't let me take my child on holiday in term time!'

Wrong! In actual fact the law won't let you, and the school has no option but to follow the law or it can also get in trouble. The Department for Education say:

*'The current law **does not** give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.'*

Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school; indeed **parents at our school have already received large fines for doing so.**

- It is important that children attend school regularly if they are to benefit from the learning opportunities provided.
- Children who are absent from school due to a holiday in term time will miss out on important learning.
- The time teachers have to help all the children in a class is reduced if they spend time helping a child to catch up after a holiday.
- Educational experiences in school missed as a result of a family holiday cannot be re-captured later.
- If your child does not attend school regularly, he/she will not be able to keep up with the work. This will have a serious impact on opportunities later in life.

We find it very embarrassing being put in the position of refusing holiday absences when these are requested, especially when we regularly remind parents that holidays should **NOT** be taken during the term time.



Birchwood Primary School Website

Want to know what's happening in school? Go to **www.birchwoodprimarieschool.com** there is so much information for you from; school policies, newsletters, copies of letters sent home, curriculum pages, photos and much more.

Click on the parent tab to open the ParentPay shop, where you can order school uniform, book bags and water bottles.



You can also follow us on twitter: @BirchwoodPrim

Academic Year 2018-2019

Spring Term 2019

Professional Development Day	Monday 7th January
Y3 Stone Age Visitor	Tuesday 8th January
Reception Trip - Snowdome	Thursday 10th January
Year 6 & R Heights & Weights	Tuesday 15th January
Young Voices - Genting Arena	Friday 25th January
Year 4 Class Assemblies	Thursday 31st January
Grandparents Lunch	Friday 15th February
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 18th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 25th February
Children return to school	Tuesday 26th February
Late Parents Evening	Weds 6th March
Early Parents Evening	Thursday 7th March
Year 3 Class Assemblies	Thursday 31st March
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2019

Children return to school	Monday 29th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 27th May
Children return to school	Monday 3rd June
Professional Development Day	Friday 21st June
Term ends for Summer (Early)	Friday 19th July

These dates may be subject to change if necessary.

New and amended dates shown in bold.

Details and times to be confirmed nearer each event.

Please note the 1 pm early finish on 21st December and 19th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

Uniform Orders



Q When can I order uniform?

A Anytime !! Simply log onto our Birchwood Primary School website at **www.birchwoodprimarieschool.com** and click on the "Parents" tab, then click "ParentPay" and finally click onto "Parentpay Uniform Shop"

Q When will my uniform be ready for collection?

A Uniform is ready for collection on the following Tuesday after your order has been placed. Our uniform shop is open each Tuesday from 3.05pm until 3.30pm.

Q Can I collect at any other time?

A If you are unable to collect on a Tuesday, between 3.05pm and 3.30pm, please contact our office and we will do our best to make alternative arrangements.

Q Can my child bring a uniform order home?

A We prefer to avoid this option, as uniform can easily be lost this way. We would not be able to replace any orders that are lost.

Q Is home delivery available?

A Unfortunately we do not have this option available. Orders are only available to collect.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR COLLECTION DAY HAS CHANGED FROM A WEDNESDAY TO A TUESDAY, DUE TO STAFFING IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE. THANK YOU.



Christmas Performances 2018





Railway Industry

Adult Education Budget 6 week Programme

Features and Benefits ~

Whilst on the course you will gain the following:

- City & Guilds Diploma Level 2 in Railway Engineering
- Competency for Core Plant
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Manual Handling
- First Aid Awareness
- Fire Awareness
- Personal Track Safety (PTS)
- Track Induction Course (TIC)
- Industry Common Induction (ICI)

Awareness Sessions to be held at Nuneaton Jobcentre on Thursday 31st January 2019

Visit the 'What's New' page on the North Warwickshire Portal to book a place on the session and find out more.

6 WEEK COURSE

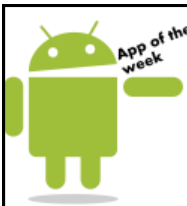
MONDAY – FRIDAY, 08:45 – 14:30

All candidates will meet their employer during the course, on successful completion of the course, all candidates will be given a guaranteed 'trial shift'.

Eligibility:

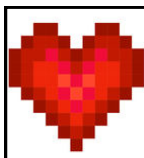
- Must be at least 19 years of age, as of the 1st August of current academic year. There is no upper age limit.
- Working at level 1 maths and English.
- Able to pass a Network Rail medical and Drug & Alcohol test.
- Must be in receipt of any of the following benefits:

JSA	Universal Credit	ESA (WRAG)
Council Tax Benefit	Incapacity Benefit	Housing Benefit
Income Support	Pension Benefit	



Sandbox

Colour by numbers. Teach your children number recognition and work on fine motor skills.



Please note that although we check the suitability of Applications, they can be changed without notice. Parents should therefore check the Application BEFORE children go on to them.

NSPCC

Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

NSPCC fundraising so far this year is :
£1071.86

Thank you very much for all of your support.

Cameo Dance est. 2003

Fun Children's Dance Classes held in Polesworth

Little Dancers 2 ½ - 6yrs 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Friday evenings in The Tithe Barn, Polesworth

Tuesday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

Juniors 6 ½ - 10yrs 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

NEW Juniors 6 ½ - 8yrs 5:15pm - 7:15pm

(From 6th Feb 2018)

Tuesday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

www.cameodance.co.uk * Call 07443421867

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo

First Trial Class FREE! Classes include many different dance styles!

School Crossing Patrol Vacancy



A vacancy has arisen for a School Crossing Patrol Operative outside of Birchwood School. Times are to be confirmed, but the position will require morning and afternoon cover, at the busiest times of the school day. Usually shifts are around 30 minutes each. The position is for Monday to Friday term time only (38 weeks per year spread across 12 monthly payments.) Pay for this position is £8.61 per hour plus holiday enhancements. A uniform and full training will be provided.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact the School Crossing Patrol Service for more details, on 01926 412661 or email scp@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Application packs can be downloaded at <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolcrossingpatrols>



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GROUP & INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL TRAINING

07880 714532

www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK

The Fellowship Church at St John's New Street, Birchmoor



A warm welcome awaits you at our Christmas Services:

- **Sunday 23rd 10.30 am**—All age Carol Service
- **Monday 24th 11.30 pm**—Carols & Communion
- **Sunday 30th 10.30 am**—Prayers for the New Year.

Information leaflets and adverts sent or published by Birchwood Primary School

Birchwood Primary does not endorse any of the services, or products advertised and does not give any representation or warranty about any of the organisations. Birchwood Primary School is not an agent for any of these organisations and any enquiry concerning their services and/or products should be referred directly to them.

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